

# Engineers search for IED's in Northern Iraq

By SGT Ryan Lamb

Qayyarah, Iraq — Searching for improvised explosive devices is a daily mission for the combat engineers of 572nd Mobility Augmentation Company, 326th Engineer Battalion (Air Assault) Task Force Sapper Eagle, Multi-National Division-North. They are tasked to provide route clearance along heavy traveled roads South of Mosul ensuring mobility for coalition forces and local nationals.

These Soldiers scan the roads seeking out the enemy's most deadly weapon, the roadside bomb, in Ninewa Province, Northern Iraq, about 250 miles north of Baghdad. On many days, Soldiers take the search off- road for a chance to discover IED's hidden by the enemy in cache sites before they are placed on the road.

The enemy likes to use the many wadis or creek beds that run next to the route to preposition IED's. The 572nd MAC Soldiers used all available resources from mine detectors to bomb detection dogs, which can smell explosives inside an IED even if it is buried underground.

The team starts the search later in the day as the sun is beginning to set to avoid the searing Iraqi sun. A significant amount of intelligence and planning goes into the hunt, mostly in areas with multiple former cache sites.

The 572nd continues to expand their operations, limiting the insurgents' maneuverability while denying their opportunity of placing IED's along the Iraqi roads. As their tour of duty reaches the 14 month mark, the Soldiers continue to display outstanding motivation and dedication to their mission.

